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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,492	06/23/2003	Sharon C. Devereaux	PA2252US	1095

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EXAMINER
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LOCKETT, KIMBERLY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2837

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Q-Q

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/602,492	<b>Applicant(s)</b> DEVEREAUX ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Kim R. Lockett	<b>Art Unit</b> 2837	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14, 15, 18, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCarty.

McCarty discloses the use of a guitar bridge combined tailpiece comprising a long narrow base piece with top, bottom, and rear surfaces; a round vertical alignment hole at each end of the base piece, the vertical alignment hole being formed from the top surface through the bottom surface and comprising first and second alignment cylindrically round posts to snugly fit in the vertical holes (see figure 3). McCarty further discloses the use of first and second adjustment posts (25) to fit in the vertical alignment holes for mounting to the body of a guitar and string holes (16) and vertically adjusting the position of the base piece. McCarty also discloses the use of a setscrew hole in each end of the base piece being formed from an outer vertical edge to each vertical alignment hole and a threaded setscrew (28) for insertion into the holes where upon rotation fixes the bridge and adjustment posts; and the use of a string diameter hole that is larger than a string hole or slots in order to receive a balled end of a string (see figure 4). McCarty inherently discloses a means of mounting the adjustment post wheels on the body of the guitar (see figure 1) placing the bridge on the adjustment posts such that

Art Unit: 2837

the adjustment posts are inserted into a vertical alignment hole at each end of a base piece fastening the setscrew holes in the until the setscrews contact the adjustment posts to fixedly mount the bridge to the guitar; a means of rotating the wheels to lower or raise the bridge (column 2, lines 15-30).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCarty in view of Hoffart.

McCarty does not disclose the use of a grommet attached to a guitar.

Hoffart discloses the use of a grommet (89) attached to a guitar body in order to attach an element.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device as disclosed by McCarty with the grommet as disclosed by Hoffart because Hoffart discloses that his grommet can be used to hold an element atop a guitar body (column 4, lines 40-48).

McCarty and Hoffart do not disclose the use of glue.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device as disclosed by McCarty with the grommet

as disclosed by Hoffart and the glue as recited in order to provide an effect means of mounting a post since the use of glue to hold elements in place is well known in the art.

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCarty in view of Dickson.

McCarty does not disclose the use of a device wherein the string holes comprise slots extending from string holes.

Dickson discloses the use of a device wherein string holes comprise slots extending from string holes (see figures 2 and 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device as disclosed by McCarty with the slots as disclosed by Dickson in order to provide an efficient means of supporting the strings.

7. The indicated allowability of claim 6 is withdrawn.

8. Any inquiry of a **general nature or relating to the status of this application or filed papers** should be directed to the **Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956**.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2800 via the PTO 2800 Fax Center located at Crystal Plaza 4. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 O.G. 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 2800

Art Unit: 2837

CP 4 Fax Center number is (703) 308-77(22 or 24). Fax numbers that provide an auto-reply fax receipt are: for before finals (703) 872-9318 and after finals (703) 872-9319.

For assistance in **Patent procedure, fees or general Patent questions** calls should be directed to the **Patents Assistance Center (PAC)** whose telephone number is **800-786-9199**. Assistance is also available on the Internet at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).

For requesting **copies of Cited Art, Office Actions or the like, or General Problem solving**, calls should be directed to the **TC 2800 Customer Service Office** whose telephone number is **703-306-3329** or by fax at **703-306-5515**.

Any inquiry concerning **this communication or earlier communications from the examiner** should be directed to **Kim Lockett** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-2067**. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin, can be reached on (571) 272-2107.

  
KIMBERLY LOCKETT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER